

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8011 of the Second Extraordinary Session

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charlie Daniels.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of rock and country music legend Charlie Daniels; and

WHEREAS, a versatile singer, songwriter, guitarist, and blazing-fast fiddle player, Charlie Daniels was also a renowned philanthropist and patriot who entertained music fans for more than a half century and made his home in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born on October 28, 1936, in Wilmington, North Carolina, Charles Edward Daniels grew up inspired by church music and local bluegrass bands and was an avid listener of Nashville's WSM and WLAC radio stations, which streamed country and R&B music into his childhood home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels merged those sounds in the mid-1950s to create the rock band The Jaguars, which most notably recorded the instrumental single "Jaguar" for national distribution via Epic Records; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Charlie Daniels and record producer Bob Johnston co-wrote the song "It Hurts Me," which was recorded by Elvis Presley and released as a single in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels moved to Nashville in 1967 and soon became a marquee session player, recording with such luminaries as Ringo Starr, Marty Robbins, Leonard Cohen, and Bob Dylan; and

WHEREAS, 1970 marked a pivotal time in Charlie Daniels's career, as he released his first solo album, *Charlie Daniels*, with Capitol Records and formed the Charlie Daniels Band (CDB), with whom he would ultimately secure his legendary status among Southern rock bands and produce his first hit song, "Uneasy Rider," which rose to number nine on the 1973 *Billboard* Hot 100 chart; and

WHEREAS, CDB's 1974 album, *Fire on the Mountain*, included the chart-topping hit songs "The South's Gonna Do It Again" and "Long Haired Country Boy" and ultimately achieved double platinum album status; and

WHEREAS, 1974 also saw the launch of Charlie Daniels's first "Volunteer Jam," a regular all-star concert in Tennessee that continued for more than forty years; such celebrated artists as Billy Joel, Little Richard, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Roy Acuff, Garth Brooks, the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band, James Brown, Alabama, and Willie Nelson are among the alumni of the series, which held its most recent edition in 2018; and

WHEREAS, a few years later, the CDB unleashed the popular hit "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" to enormous success; it dominated the charts at number one and won the 1979 Grammy Award for Best Country Vocal; and

WHEREAS, CDB continued to garner critical and commercial success throughout the next two decades, as the band appeared in the 1980 film *Urban Cowboy* and produced the number eleven Billboard album *Full Moon* and the number two country album *Simple Man*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his illustrious career in country music, Mr. Daniels has received much recognition for his contributions to the Christian music scene, winning *Cashbox Magazine's* Best Positive Christian Country Performance by a Secular Artist, earning Dove awards for Best Country Album of the Year and Song of the Year, and receiving a Grammy nomination for Best Christian Album of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his other professional honors include The Pioneer Award by the Academy of Country Music, the Living Legend Award from *The Music City News - The Nashville Network*, a BMI Icon award, the Career Achievement Award from the Country Music DJ and Radio Hall of Fame, membership in the Musicians Hall of Fame, a star on Music City's Walk of Fame, and an honorary doctor of letters degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Daniels's most meaningful awards was his induction into the elite Grand Ole Opry in 2008, an honor befitting his long and storied career in country music and his invaluable role in the Nashville entertainment industry; in 2016, he earned a top honor for any Nashville musician with his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements and awards aside, Charlie Daniels devoted himself to public service, honoring and supporting our troops both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, with the Charlie Daniels Band, he launched Operation Heartstrings in 2005, a program that donated 13,000 musical instruments and accessories, such as Gibson guitars, drums, keyboards, and microphones, to deployed service members overseas; and

WHEREAS, he also performed for troops stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Bosnia, Kuwait, and South Korea and toured several times to Iraq with Stars for Stripes; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service to the troops, Charlie Daniels received the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels served many other charitable causes; he hosted The Charlie Daniels Celebrity Golf Classic & Angelus Concert, benefiting a full-time residential facility and day school program for the severely handicapped; co-hosted the Jason Foundation Golf Classic, a national organization targeting teen suicide prevention; served on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Professional Advisory Board; and supported the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer, and AIDS Research, which honored him with the Lifetime Entertainment Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, he co-founded the Journey Home Project, a nonprofit organization that has now raised more than \$1 million for veterans and veterans-related programs and charities. The following year Middle Tennessee State University opened the Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-five years, the former Hazel Alexander, and his son, Charles W. Daniels; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of Charlie Daniels for his myriad contributions and incomparable service to the country music business and the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life of Charlie Daniels, even as we mourn his passing,

and reflect fondly upon his impeccable character and indelible legacy as one of the greatest and most enduring country music artists of his generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Daniels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.